**MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.**

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 1st June 2015 in The Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall commencing at 7.15pm.

**Present** Councillor RF Skoulding Town Mayor

Councillors SR Court MEC Field

J French K French

ML George JW Gowing

NJ Harris CC Owen

MW Purser

Police PCSO Dawn Rae

PCSO Shane Green

Town Clerk C Lemmon

Asst. Town Clerk GSD Wilkinson

Public One

**38 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Donnelly.

**39 Police Update**

PCSO Dawn Rae updated Councillors as follows:

During May 2015, the following offences were committed:

1. 4 x Theft from motor vehicles (3 of these offences being theft of number plates).
2. 11 x Criminal damage to houses.
3. 2 x General theft (these being A-frame shop signs).
4. 6 x Petrol thefts.
5. 5 x Shoplifting.
6. 4 x Burglaries.

Also during May 2015, 10 parking tickets were issued in town along with 6 speeding tickets in Wisbech Road.

It was noted that problems were still being encountered with off-road motorbikes, particularly in the Badgeney Road area.

The next Police Forum is due to be held prior to the next Main Council Meeting on 6th July 2015. The police will be handing out Forum Questionnaires to ascertain priorities at Sainsbury’s on 24th June 2015 and on March Market Place on 1st July 2015.

The police were asked to monitor problem parking in Rookswood Road. Complaints had been received regarding on-road parking blocking gateways.

Following their presentation, PCSOs Dawn Rae and Shane Green were thanked by the Mayor and left the meeting at 7.33pm.

**40 Planning Applications**

Because of their positions on the Fenland District Council Planning and Development Committee and their commitment to Paragraph 28 of the Fenland District Council Code of Conduct, Councillors Court and Owen declared personal interests and took no part in the discussions relating to planning matters.

It was also noted that due to their involvement in the building industry, Councillors Purser and Skoulding would not take part in any discussions relating to planning issues.

Councillors Court, Owen and Skoulding left the debating table for the entirety of this agenda item.

It was agreed that seven additional planning applications would be discussed.

Councillor J French took the chair for this agenda item only.

*Application Name and address of applicant, details of application,*

*Number and recommendation of March Town Council*

F/YR15/0381/F Mr M Fitzjohn, 11 Bramble Walk, March.

Erection of a single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling involving demolition of existing conservatory.

S/a.

Received: 29 May 2015.

Reply By: 16 June 2015.

Since she is a friend of the applicant, Councillor K French declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussions relating to this application.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/0385/F Mr J Wood, 59 Robingoodfellows Lane, March.

Installation of external wall insulation to existing dwelling.

S/a.

Received: 29 May 2015.

Reply By: 16 June 2015.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/0387/F Construct Reason ltd, Beaver House, Northern Road, Sudbury.

Erection of 6 dwellings comprising of 1 x 2-storey 2-bed: 1 x 2-storey 3-bed: 3 x single-storey 3-bed and 1 x single-storey 2-bed with garages, involving demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings.

33 Gaul Road, March.

Received: 29 May 2015.

Reply By: 17 June 2015.

Recommend approval subject to adequate drainage, adequate surface water disposal and retention of trees.

F/YR15/0389/F Mr F Thomas, 9 Acacia Grove, March.

Installation of external wall insulation to existing dwelling.

S/a.

Received: 29 May 2015.

Reply By: 17 June 2015.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/0390/F Mr & Mrs Singleton, 67 Smiths Drive, March.

Replacement of garage flat roof attached to existing dwelling to a pitched roof.

S/a.

Received: 29 May 2015.

Reply By: 17 June 2015.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/0253/F Withdrawn

Erection of a 2-storey 3-bed dwelling with garage and attached garage for 56 New Park at Land West Of 58 New Park Fronting Newlands Avenue, March.

Withdrawal noted.

F/2003/15/CC Erection of four classroom extension to Infant School with associated facilities; and erection of two classroom extension to Community Group with associated offices and facilities.

Maple Grove Infant School & Community Centre, Maple Grove, March, PE15 8JT.

Received: 1 June 2015.

Reply By: 19 June 2015.

Since he is the Chairman of Governors at Westwood School, Councillor Fields declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussions relating to this application.

Recommend approval.

**41 Public Participation**

Since nobody had given the requisite notice to the Clerk to enable them to address the meeting, no public participation took place.

**42 Minutes of Meetings**

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

Annual Meeting of 18th May 2015.

**43 Matters Arising**

Re Annual Meeting of 18th May 2015:

Minute 35: The Clerk reported that:

1. The Estover Playing Field 2015 CIC has now been registered and the relevant paperwork has been returned from Companies House.
2. The lease from Cambs County Council is expected within the next two weeks.
3. A public meeting concerning Estover cannot be called until both documents are in our possession.
4. It will be necessary to provide Estover Playing Field Association with short-term funding until all necessary paperwork is in place.

**44 Flooding Update**

Trevor Watson’s update was circulated to Councillors earlier in the day, and it was noted that drainage systems in New Park are now due to be investigated.

**45 Schedule of Councillors for Band Concert Supervision 2015**

5th July 2015 March Brass 2000 30 Chairs Required

Councillors Skoulding & George.

12th July 2015 Wicken Coronation Band 30 Chairs Required

Councillors Purser & Donnelly.

19th July 2015 City of Peterborough Concert Band 30 Chairs Required

Councillors J French & Court.

26th July 2015 City of Ely Military Band 50 Chairs Required

Councillors Owen, Pugh & Harris.

2nd August 2015 MADAOS 25 Chairs Required

Councillors K French & Gowing.

9th August 2015 Hilgay Silver Band 25 Chairs Required

Councillors Field & J French.

16th August 2015 Freddie & Friends 6 Chairs Required

Councillor Purser.

23rd August 2015 Wississippi Jazzmen 5 Chairs Required

Councillor Field.

30th August 2015 Manea Silver Band 20 Chairs Required

Councillors Skoulding & Harris.

**46 Disabled Parking Bay in Broad Street**

Councillor J French raised the point that there is not now a disabled parking bay in Broad Street adjacent to Tesco Express. It was noted that the bus stops were now located in this area and that the provision of a disabled parking bay would be virtually impossible. Similarly, a disabled parking bay in the middle of Broad Street would not be the most user-friendly position. Full consultation had taken place regarding the new layout of Broad Street and, therefore, it was agreed that no further action could be taken unless specific recommendations were received.

**47 Continued Role of Town Crier**

It had previously been agreed that the role of Town Crier would be reviewed at the commencement of the 2015 Council.

Following discussions, it was noted that Bernard Keane did not wish to continue in the role. It was, therefore, proposed by Councillor J French and seconded by Councillor Owen, with all in favour, that such role be discontinued.

It was also agreed that the outfit and bell be offered to March Museum.

Finally, it was agreed that the Mayor would write to Bernard Keane to officially thank him for the efforts he had made over the last few years.

**48 Proposed March Retail Village**

Councillors briefly discussed the proposals for a Retail Village on the western side of the bypass adjoining the River Nene and adjacent to Fox’s Marina.

Details concerning this development were forwarded to all Councillors on 12th May 2015, and full public consultation will be initiated by Cannon Kirk in due course.

It was agreed that, at this point in time, no comment should be made and no further action should be taken.

**49 Cambridgeshire County Council Update**

Since no County Councillors were in attendance, no update was provided.

**50 Fenland District Council Update**

Councillor Owen reported as follows:

1. No parking charges will be introduced in Fenland until a comprehensive spending review has been undertaken.
2. Similarly, there will be no charge for brown bins until that review has been completed.
3. The Committee system will not be considered again at this stage.

Several Councillors expressed their concerns regarding parking and brown bin charges, and stated that opposition would remain strong whatever the outcome of the spending review.

**51 Schedule of Accounts**

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm

Councillor RF Skoulding ……………………………………….. 6th July 2015.

Mayor of March.